

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1.(Currently Amended) A positioning system for guiding a medical device to a location where a pulmonary vein extends from an atrium, comprising:

a transeptal sheath;

a ~~pre-shaped~~ guiding introducer slidable within the transeptal sheath;

a deflectable catheter having proximal and distal end portions, wherein the medical device is disposed along the distal end portion, and wherein the deflectable catheter is configured to be torquable and steerable; and

a pullwire integrated within the deflectable catheter that is adapted to deflect at least a portion of the distal end portion such that the deflectable catheter may be advanced through the ~~pre-shaped~~ guiding introducer ~~whereby~~ wherein the ~~pre-shaped~~ guiding introducer is pre-shaped to direct[s] the catheter towards the pulmonary vein and the catheter is further directed into the pulmonary vein by manipulation of the pullwire along the proximal end portion.

2. (Previously Presented) The positioning system of claim 1, wherein the medical device further comprises an electrode element.

3. (Previously Presented) The positioning system of claim 2, wherein the electrode element comprises a mapping electrode.

4. (Previously Presented) The positioning system of claim 2, wherein the electrode element comprises an ablation electrode.

5. (Previously Presented) The positioning system of claim 2, wherein the electrode element comprises both a mapping electrode and an ablation electrode.

6. (Previously Presented) The positioning system of claim 2, wherein the electrode element is an RF ablation element.

7. (Previously Presented) The positioning system of claim 1, wherein the medical device further comprises an ablation element.

8. (Previously Presented) The positioning system of claim 6, wherein the ablation element comprises a microwave ablation element.

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9. (Previously Presented) The positioning system of claim 6, wherein the ablation element comprises a cryogenic ablation element.

10. (Previously Presented) The positioning system of claim 6, wherein the ablation element comprises a thermal ablation element.

11. (Previously Presented) The positioning system of claim 6, wherein the ablation element comprises a light-emitting ablation element.

12. (Previously Presented) The positioning system of claim 6, wherein the ablation element comprises an ultrasound transducer.

13. (Previously Presented) The positioning system of claim 6, wherein the ablation element is adapted to form a linear lesion.

14. (Previously Presented) The positioning system of claim 6, wherein the ablation element is adapted to form a circumferential lesion.

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15. (Previously Presented) The positioning system of claim 14, wherein the ablation element is adapted to form the circumferential lesion at the location.